

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2017

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Christian Fellowship Church
12909 Eastern Avenue Middle River, MD 21220

Commission Members Present:

Kimberly Chapin Burton	Mental Health Association of Maryland
Christina Drushel-Williams	Governor's Office for Children
Stephen Goldberg, M.D.	Public Health Services
Dana Stacey Hendrickson	Department of Veterans Affairs
Jennilyn Babcock Landleck	Family Member
Eric Luedtke	Member of the House of Delegates
Randall Nero, PhD	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Barry Page	Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Admin.
Robert Tousey, Esq.	Chair & Faith-based Community
Linnette Rivera	Department of Disabilities

Commission Members on Phone:

Amanda Celentano	Maryland Department of Aging
Kenneth Collins	Maryland Addictions Directors Council
Shenetta Malkia-Sapp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennifer McMahan	Department of Health
Deborah Nelson, PhD	Maryland State Department of Education
William Powell	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide

Maryland Department of Health & Behavioral Health Administration Staff:

Janel Cubbage	Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, Office of Health Promotion and Prevention, Director of Suicide Prevention
Kimberly Hiner	Maryland Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (Commission Staff)

Public Attendees:

Bruce Herman	UMBC Health and Consultation
Lorraine Helferich	Every Mind
Travis Crow	Building Healthy Military Communities
Jay Ashcraft	MDARNG Substance Abuse Program
Angela Onime	Maryland Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Welcome & Introductions:

Chairman Bob Tousey welcomed attendees to the Commission meeting. Formal introductions of individuals attending meeting was done.

Approval of September 25, 2017 Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting was approved after two minor corrections are made.

Taskforces:

Chairman Tousey encouraged all commissioners to join at least one taskforce. Involvement of certain groups / organizations such as youth and faith based organizations; groups that work with people with neurological diseases were encouraged to join the taskforces. Members of the commission were charged with ensuring that vulnerable groups such as the LGBT communities, high school and college students were represented.

Commissioner Hendrickson spoke about work she has been doing with her Veteran advocates and suggested that that group could assist and contribute to the Veterans task force.

It was discussed that task forces are a way for non-commissioners to be engaged and involved in the Commission, including prior commissioners who have tenured out.

Suicide Prevention Report Deliverables and Discussion:

Chairman Tousey would like to have an action plan developed for the deliverables listed in the 2016 Commission report and priorities be established.

Some changes and updated need to be made to the language in the report, as well.

Presentation: Commissioner Randal Nero, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services:

Commissioner Nero provided an overview of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (the Department). The Department manages 20 facilities and three reception and diagnostic centers that accommodate 21,000 individuals. These facilities fall into various categories ranging from maximum, medium, minimum and pre-release. Psychology, mental health and suicide prevention services are provided in a continuum by both the state mental health staff and private contractors' staff for individuals in all facilities. These services include management of serious mental health conditions for high risk individuals and general population management such as group therapy, medication management, identification, and release planning. Suicide prevention services provided categorize cases into various groups based on risk level such as suicide ideation, attempt, gestures, self-injurious behaviors and completed suicides to ensure the right kind of care is provided to these individuals and the data collected is used for future planning. While these processes keep the individuals safe it does not always result in the treatment of the underlying mental health issues due to challenges in communication between case managers and mental health staff, break down in continuum of care provided.

Presentation: Dana Hendrickson, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs:

Commissioner Hendrickson provided an overview of the Departments activities and collaborations around suicide prevention efforts. Suicide reduction and prevention among veterans is a high priority for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and awareness and linkages will be ongoing and increased. The Department has been working in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct the following activities:

- Sensitization Forums- To raise awareness about suicide and suicide prevention among veterans
- Stakeholders meeting – To create awareness on the need to promote suicide prevention among Veterans.
- Linkages to services that reduces the risk for suicide such as mental health services
- Feedback forums
- Provision and distribution of resource guide to veterans and families
- Veterans crisis line

Additional Discussion:

- The need for better data collection and management- Currently data kept are from the state violent death reporting system which occasionally provides data that are of previous years. There is a need for a current and live data sharing mechanism The Behavioral Health Administration is developing a tool that can help with this issue. The use of data from the crisis hotline will also aid in provision of data as well as collaborations with groups such as funeral homes will provide some data that can be used by the commission
- Long term plan should be established for how to add youth as members of the commission – youth should be invited to serve on various task forces.
- There is a need for the development of various educational materials and curriculum that will address the issues of suicide prevention for use by different members and cadres of society. Examples include materials for use by funeral directors to educate those affected by loss of a family member or close relative through suicide, materials to provide guide and resources for high risk individuals and their families and materials to educate other stakeholders. This initiative is being facilitated by the director of Suicide prevention in the Behavioral health administration.

Adjournment:

The next meeting dates and venues were discussed and the meeting came to close with an adjournment to January 2018.

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention, 2018 meeting dates and locations

Date	Location	Format
January 22, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Department of Budget and Management 45 Calvert St Annapolis, MD 21401	1-hour business, 1-hour education

March 19, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Maryland Department of Transportation 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover	1-hour business, 1-hour education
May 21, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Spring Grove Hospital Center Dix Building Basement 55 Wade Avenue, Catonsville	2-hour business meeting
July 16, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Governor's Coordinating Office 100 Community Place, Crownsville	1-hour business, 1-hour education
September, 17, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Special Location, TBD	1-hour business, 1-hour education
November 19, 2018 1 PM – 3 PM	Spring Grove Hospital Center Dix Building Basement 55 Wade Avenue, Catonsville	2-hour business meeting